

Marquita Lister Biography

Marquita Lister has earned worldwide critical praise for the past two decades for an impressive repertoire that includes the masterworks of Verdi, Strauss, Puccini and Gershwin.

Ms. Lister has sung with major opera companies such as the San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Montreal Opera, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg, La Scala, Semperoper Dresden, Staatstheater Stuttgart, Arena di Verona, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera Bastille Paris, Michigan Opera Theater, to name a few. She has performed with world renowned artists, including Placido Domingo, Justino Diaz, Frederica Von Stade, Simon Estes and Sherrill Milnes.

Her convincing performance as *Bess* in New York City Opera's Emmy nominated production of *Porgy and Bess* earned her the "NYCO Diva Award." Ms. Lister also received the "Artist of the Year Award," from the Pittsburgh Opera, and has appeared in television broadcast productions of *An Evening with the Pops*; *Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops* (PBS), *A Christmas Celebration: Dallas Symphony Orchestra* (KXAS- TV), and *Live from Lincoln Center* (PBS). In studio, Ms. Lister recorded George Gershwin's *Blue Monday* and *Excerpts from Porgy and Bess* for Telarc Records with Erich Kunze and the Cincinnati Pops (Grammy nominated), *Where the Sunsets Bleed: The Chamber Music of Edward Knight* on Albany Records, and the critically acclaimed *Porgy and Bess* recording on the Decca label hailed by *Opera News* as one of the best recordings of 2006. In 2012, Ms. Lister recorded composer Michael Ching's contribution to the Opera America Songbook commissioned for opening celebrations of the National Opera Center in New York.

Ms. Lister is presently collaborating with soprano Louise Toppin to pioneer *The African American Art Song and Arranged Negro Spirituals for a New Generation* Project. The project received the the 2018 Thomas Hampson Award by the American Musicological Society.

Ms. Lister is the Coordinator of Vocal Studies and Director of Opera at Morgan State University.